



# Homeland Defense

Edgewood Area – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

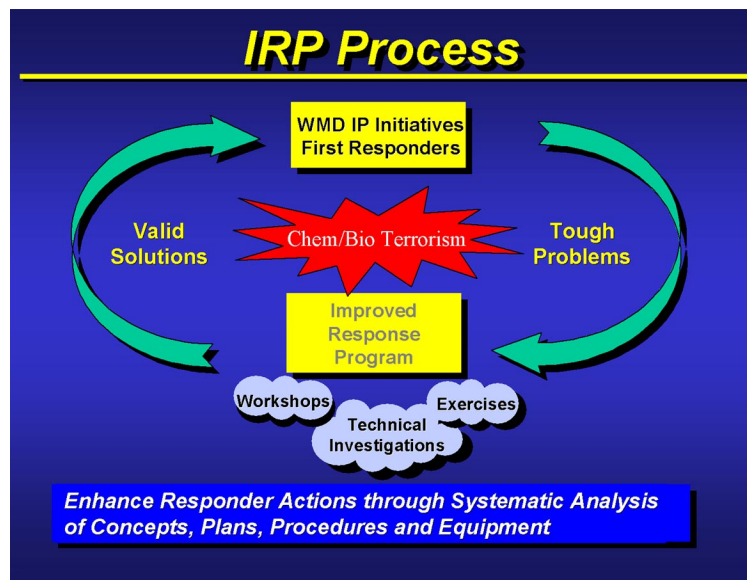


## Military Improved Response Program (MIRP)

The Military Improved Response Program (MIRP) is part of the Homeland Defense Program at the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the center of the Department of Defense's (DoD) chemical and biological expertise. Under the Domestic Preparedness Program, the Improved Response Program conducted scientific research, workshops, and technical investigations centering on enhancing and improving the capability of civilian emergency responders to safely and effectively respond to a potential terrorist incident that involves the use of chemical and/or biological warfare agents. Improved Response Program efforts have produced valuable products addressing the needs of first responders in the areas of:

- Mass casualty decontamination,
- Chemical detection,
- Firefighter clothing protection against chemical agents,
- Positive pressure ventilation as a mitigation tool,
- Personal protective equipment for law enforcement and emergency medical personnel,
- A generic medical response template to handle the massive number of chemical casualties,
- A generic response template for an incident involving biological weapons.

The MIRP, by building on the expertise and knowledge acquired through the Domestic



Preparedness Program, will help to enhance the DoD community's response to a terrorist use of biological or chemical weapons.

The MIRP's approach, with the involvement of representatives from the response community of the various services (fire/HazMat, law enforcement and security, base operations, disaster management, medical, public health, and the civilian communities surrounding the partnering installations) is to conduct information sharing and functional workshops that address the response to chemical/biological (CB) incidents.

The objectives of these workshops are to:

- Identify, assess, and prioritize areas with potential for improvement,
- Develop test and evaluate response improvement concepts,
- Place emphasis on first responder protection,

- Place emphasis on first responder detection capability,
- Place emphasis on mass casualty decontamination,
- Consider crime scene preservation,
- Consider fatality management,
- Enhance cooperation between military and civilian communities; consider the overlapping response.

Using the results of the workshops, and with the continued assistance of the services, the

MIRP will develop best practices and suggested equipment. Additionally, through technical initiatives and exercises, the Program will meld the results into a coherent improved response for CB incidents.

For more information, contact the Homeland Defense Business Unit via mail to Commander, U.S. Army SBCCOM, ATTN: AMSSB-REN-HD (E3331/117), 5183 Blackhawk Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424, via telephone at (410) 436-3674, or via e-mail to [homeland.defense@sbccom.apgea.army.mil](mailto:homeland.defense@sbccom.apgea.army.mil).